

September 6th, 1953

Dear Dr. Lederberg,

The Congress is over, now, and it was not a very exciting one. But I met a great many interesting people, and Bellagio is certainly an ideal spot for a week's stay. Also, needless to say, I've had a fine time, both coming and going. You'll hear all about that, soon enough.

I got back to London yesterday midday, and immediately contacted my airline office (Pan American). When I had 1st come to England they had been able to move my return reservation up from the 18th of Sept. to the 13th. But they have no openings - none at all - before then. They put me on a list in case there are any last-minute openings, but I'm pretty far down the list still, although I've been listed over three weeks. I'm quite sorry about this delay, because it is probably going to be an inconvenience to you. Also I'm sorry, because I'm practically broke and had not planned on this added expense. I shall probably return to Madison in a semi-furnished condition. Right now I would even rejoice over a bowl of porridge!

Today I was up to visit the Spicers. Clive's got a sort of station-wagon and we went for a drive through the countryside. Faith has been ill for a week, but she came down to the garden for coffee. She looked so peaked that I didn't think I'd better stay out there. They've got three fine children who are very jolly and cheerful, and I got a picture of them under the apple tree. Tomorrow I'm going up to Colindale to see what I can learn. My best regards to your wife and all the lab folks. Yours,
Helen

P.S. I got some pictures of Cavalli. He is an extremely pleasant fellow, as you shall discover when you meet him. I hope the pictures come out O.K.